Interagency Wildfire Management Team Meeting Notes August 13, 2003

Manny L'Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported that fire restrictions at LANL have been lifted, as of last Friday. All public-access areas at LANL are now open.

Henry Ortiz (Los Alamos County Fire Department) announced that fire restrictions on County property have expired. The thinning of forest and woodlands adjacent to Los Alamos, and the Defensible Space project are continuing as scheduled.

George Geissler (Davey Resource Group) added that the Defensible Space project has begun work in White Rock. The Los Alamos segment of this project is nearly complete.

Darroll Abeyta (Santa Fe National Forest) stated that the state-wide fire restrictions on Forest Service lands have been rescinded. The Santa Fe National Forest is attempting to complete all thinning and prescribed burning projects that have been scheduled for this year. Rehabilitation of the Molina Fire with grass seed will be conducted from the Los Alamos airport. Finally, Annie Apodaca (505-753-7331) is acting as the contact for the Forest Service-Department of Energy liaison office that is located in Los Alamos.

Phoebe Suina (Infrastructure Projects, LANL) reported on the progress of the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project.

Phil Taylor (Office of Emergency Management, Los Alamos County) announced that RAWS alarms were triggered in upper Los Alamos canyon during the recent rain storm. However, Phil had not heard of any flooding or stream flow that had occurred in the nearby canyons.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) is completing the field sampling for 2003. A total of 40 plots have been sampled.

Pat Valerio (Ecology Group, LANL), Sam Loftin and Kevin Buckley are continuing with their surveys of the areas at LANL that have been thinned or rehabilitated in the last three years.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, August 27, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.